

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

Sub 1

1. A method for preventing freezing at an outlet of a fire extinguisher, wherein said fire extinguisher contains fire extinguisher fluid, said method comprising contacting the fire extinguisher fluid with a drying agent, thereby removing water from the fire extinguisher fluid.

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2. The method of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is contacted with said fire extinguisher fluid inside the fire extinguisher.

Sub 2

3. The method of Claim 1, wherein said fire extinguisher fluid comprises bromotrifluoromethane.

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4. The method of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent comprises a zeolite.

5. The method of Claim 4, wherein said zeolite is molecular sieve 3A.

6. The method of Claim 4, wherein said zeolite is molecular sieve 4A.

7. The method of Claim 1, wherein said fire extinguisher fluid is contacted with said drying agent for a period of at least 2 days.

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8. The method of Claim 1, wherein said fire extinguisher fluid is a halocarbon or a halohydrocarbon.

9. The method of Claim 1, wherein said fire extinguisher fluid is selected from the group consisting of bromotrifluoromethane, iodotrifluoromethane, chlorotetrafluoroethane, HCFC-22, 1,1,1,3,3,3-hexafluoropropane, HFC-227, FC-218, FC-3110, HFC-134a, pentafluoroethane, FC-318, HFC-32/125, FC-116, and trifluoromethane.

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10. The method of Claim 1, wherein said fire extinguisher fluid contains less than 40 ppm of water after said contacting.

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11. The method of Claim 1, wherein said drying agent is in the form of a shaped solid.

12. The method of Claim 11, wherein said drying agent is in the form of pellets.

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13. The method of Claim 11, wherein said drying agent is contained in a container having a plurality of openings, said openings allowing said fire extinguisher fluid to contact said drying agent in said container.

14. The method of Claim 13, wherein said drying agent in the form of a shaped solid cannot pass through said openings.

*sub a2* 15. An apparatus for preventing freezing at the outlet of a fire extinguisher, said apparatus comprising:

5 a fire extinguisher bottle; and

a removable container having a plurality of openings in the container, wherein said removable container contains a drying agent.

16. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said removable container is removable from inside said fire extinguisher bottle.

*sub B1* 10 17. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said removable container is generally tubular shaped.

18. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said removable container is made, at least in part, of mesh.

19. The apparatus of Claim 18, wherein said mesh is made of metal.

15 20. The apparatus of Claim 19, wherein said mesh is made of stainless steel.

21. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said removable container further comprises at least one flexible projection on the exterior of said container.

22. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said at least one flexible projection on said removable container prevents said removable container from plugging an outlet of the fire extinguisher.

23. The apparatus of Claim 21, wherein said at least one flexible projection is a flexible wire having at least two ends, wherein at least two ends of said flexible wire are attached to said removable container, thereby forming a flexible projection.

24. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said removable container is removable from said fire extinguisher bottle through an outlet of said fire extinguisher bottle.

25. The apparatus of Claim 15, wherein said drying agent is a molecular sieve.

30 26. The apparatus of Claim 25, wherein said molecular sieve is 3A or 4A molecular sieve.

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27. The apparatus of Claim 23, wherein said container is generally tubular shaped, and said wire extends beyond opposite ends of the tube so that the tube is blocked by the wire from entering an outlet from the bottle.

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